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Issue No 140 October 2016

Homes & Gardens 8 & 9 ● Leisure 10 ● Local Services 12

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Questions raised over benefits of proposed A30 improvements

TWO Blackdown Hills residents have raised concerns over the propsed improvements to the A30/A303 route through the the AONB.

Neighbours Sarah Dawes and Sarah Clark, from Monkton, have voiced their concerns over the proposed A30 improvement scheme and say the main focus of improvements in the village, a gateway to the Blackdown Hills, should be widening the road to improve road safety, and not speeding up journey times for drivers travelling to the South West.

Devon County Council are proposing three possible improvements: Blue North, Blue South and Orange.

All three routes will cost in the region of £170million.

Blue North and Blue South follow a similar route. Blue North involves the removal of a hedge which currently shields residents of the north side of the A30 and would see a widening of the north side of the road, while Blue South allows the hedge to stay but involves the demolition of homes, a business and the loss of the Little Chef's car park and a widening of the south side of the road.

The Orange route impacts two farms; it also remains as a 2+1 road for the majority of its route but is deemed safer for road users as there are no access points once on the road.

Public consultation over the propsed improvements ended at the end of last month.

Sarah Dawes said: "The Blackdown Hills enjoys exceptional scenery and prime agricultural land.

"There are numerous figures quoted regarding shorter journey times, the creation of jobs, tourism and resilience. However, unless the entire stretch of 21km – Honiton A30 to Broadway A303 Ilminster – is completed, these objectives will not be met.

"Currently DCC can give no indication as to when the completion of the entire stretch will be achieved. Indeed, the remaining sections are not currently being considered.

"How will the Honiton to Devonshire Inn five-mile stretch improve connections to the South West and improve resilience?"

Sarah Clark added: "Any driver in a hurry should choose the motorway. We view the A30/A303 as being a heritage route; it is driven at a slower speed to enable enjoyment of the beautiful surroundings that are the Blackdown Hills.

"People who choose this route expect the journey to take a little longer and expect possible delays at peak times.

"Improvements are required at Monkton due to the reduced width of the road in the centre of the village as two lorries are unable to pass without losing their wing mirrors.

"Improvements are also required on the remaining section of the 21km stretch to improve safety at Marsh and at The Eagle Tavern, but these improvements are not included in this current scheme."

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UK rural communities given vital £600,000 funding boost

THE Prince's Countryside Fund, the charity, which aims to improve the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life across the UK, has announced a grant funding pot of more than £600,000 to support vital rural initiatives.

Rural enterprise projects across the UK that range from enhancing community services, provide training opportunities for young and unemployed people and projects that focus on developing stronger, more sustainable farm businesses can apply for a grant of up to £50,000.

As part of its vital role in responding to countryside crises, the Fund is also opening up specific funds to help support the winter flood recovery. Organisations that are supporting farmers, rural businesses and communities following the severe storms in December 2015 across Cumbria, Lancashire, Herefordshire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire, Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland can apply.

Submissions opened in September and close on Thursday, October 13th and applicants can visit www.princescountrysidefund/grantprogramme to check their eligibility and found out how to apply.

Reflecting the growing need in rural communities, the Fund released its greatest number of grants to date earlier this year with 21 projects funded. Since being founded by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010, the Fund has distributed over £7million to 182 projects across the UK, helping more than 200,000 people.

Clare Crookenden, grants manager for The Prince's Countryside Fund, said: "Since 2010 our grant programme has provided a vital boost to people and grassroot organisations who are working hard to protect and enhance the countryside. We've been able to support innovative and diverse projects, ranging from inspiring young people to develop their skills and pursue a rural career to strengthening rural businesses who have been hit hard in recent years.

"Our grant programme has been made to available to help improve the lives of people living and working in the countryside. Community shops, libraries and pubs and the people that support them add vibrancy and strength to rural communities and we are committed to help.

"Action is needed to give rural communities the chance to provide the vital services that they rely on and to ensure all of us benefit from retaining a vibrant countryside."

Stepping back in time for Heritage Weekend

TO celebrate Heritage Weekend, the Friends of St Mary's at Hemyock organised an exhibition entitled "Transport in Hemyock through the Ages".

Another apt title could have been "From the Cradle to the Grave" with items on display going from a pram to a bier, which was used in the past to take coffins from the church to the cemetery.

Thanks to the landlord of the Catherine Wheel pub, a pony and trap was in the car park, along with an Austin 7, Austin Cambridge and Ford Escort Mk1.

The church itself was full of memorabilia with numerous photos, paintings, books, model vehicles, and a DVD of The Culm Valley Railway, as well as bicycles, wheelbarrow, scooter, roller boots and skates. The Tower Room was also open.

One item which attracted alot of attention was a folding parachute bike from WWII. British paratroopers carried the bikes in gliders and other aircraft to be dropped with them in France. Although they helped personnel to quickly leave the drop site they were unpopular as uncomfortable and it is believed many were simply discarded.

Local travel company Redwoods first began trading in 1932 with a 14 seater1927 Cheverolet. Their display included photos of the various vehicles used since then and explained how the company had expanded from regular trips to local towns to holidays both in UK and abroad and of course many young people have travelled on Redwoods coaches to and from schools and continue to do so.

The Friends served refreshments and live music was played throughout the afternoon with the event raising £268 towards the upkeep and special projects at the parish church.

A number of people also took the opportunity during the afternoon to visit Hemyock Castle kindly opened by the Sheppard family.

Photo competition deadline looms

THE Somerset Hedge Group 2016 digital photographic competition closes on October 1st. The competition follows successful competitions held every two years since 2008.

Winners will receive cash prizes at a presentation evening in November.

With sponsorship from CPRE, the Blackdown Hills and Mendip Hills AONBs and Marshall Agroecology Ltd, this competition will run during the year from now to the beginning of October 2016. Generous prize money of will be available for two classes: Open and Junior (under 15).

The competition is for amateur photographers with a maximum of three entries per person. Digital images only are requested and the closing date for entries is October 1st.

There is still time to capture some of the fascinating interactions between people and our wonderful hedgerows across Somerset!

For an entry form and competition rules, go to www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk and print off a form.

The Somerset Hedge Group Chair is Heather Harley E-mail: HJHarley@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk. Entries to Dr Jon Marshall: jon.marshall@agroecol.co.uk

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Hundreds sign up to broadband scheme

MEETINGS are to be held in the Blackdown Hills later this month for residents wishing to sign up to superfast Broadband with internet provider Gigaclear.

It was announced in the summer that the privately funded provider would be investing £2.4million into bringing superfast broadband to the hills, which has long suffered with slow internet speeds much to the frustration of many Blackdowns' residents and businesses.

Gigaclear are in the process of rolling out its fibre-to-premises broadband network in the area - a move which is being supported by Neil Parish, MP for Tiverton and Honiton, who has long campaigned for faster broadband in his constituency.

Orders for the service in Upottery, Rawridge and Yarcombe are very close to the number required for work to begin on laying fibre cables, with orders in Churchinford, Smeatharpe and Stapley following closely behind.

In Clayhidon and Ford Street, where the service was introduced to the local community in September, order numbers are catching up fast.

Gigaclear's fibre-to-premises initiative will see homes and businesses connected directly to the network using fibre cables. Its website states that Gigaclear provides a connection point at the boundary of your property and the highway, and then customers can either lay their own cables or pay for professional installation.

It is claimed that Gigaclear will be providing upload and download speeds of up to 1gigabit per second (1,000mbps), which means the Blackdown's could have faster broadband speeds than those currently available in Exeter or Plymouth

Gigaclear's broadband roll out is a privately funded initiative that offers an alternative option to the government's £94million Connecting Devon and Somerset scheme, which has been working to bring superfast broadband to 95 per cent of properties, but had missed some parts of the hills. If further funding can be secured it aims to bring faster broadband to the remaining five per cent.

Internet campaigner Graham Long, said of the scheme: "In the 19th century, the coming of steam railways to the south west and the industrial revolution boosted the economy. Today we are at the beginning of the Information Revolution and switching from copper to an all fibre communications network is as significant today as switching from horses to steam and the internal combustion engine was in the 19th century.

"We may all be familiar with the likes of Google, Skype, eBay and Amazon today but there are many, many more applications and services yet to come and they will require really good fast broadband connections. The good news is that the Blackdown Hills will soon have the opportunity to be at the forefront of this revolution and Gigaclear are demonstrating that to be involved, you do not need to be in a city anymore - you can be part of it even if you live in the most rural parts of the country.

"Today's businesses rely more and more on their websites to bring in new customers. Their websites becomes their shop windows and keeping them attractive and current so that they attract'passing trade' demands access to fast internet. Fast broadband really does give businesses access to the trade routes of the 21st century."

Gigaclear will be holding a number of information events in the Blackdowns for those interested in signing up to the service.

A meeting will be held in the Sidmouth Arms in Upottery between 7pm and 8.30pm on Wednesday, October 5th and on Monday, October 17th.

The York Inn in Churchinford will also be holding a meeting on Tuesday, October 11th and Tuesday, October 25th, between 7pm and 8.30pm.

Residents will be able to ask any questions they may have about Gigaclear's ultrafast broadband.

You can also check Gigaclear's availability in your postcode area and order the service via the Gigaclear website, www.gigaclear.com or by calling 01865 591100.

Celebrating church helpers with service

A CASSEROLE dish, floral arrangement, calculator, dustpan, hammer and paintbrush, toy cars, and bell, along with a bible, hymn book and Churchwardens' staves were just some of the items brought forward and placed on a table to represent the many people who help, assist and minister in any capacity for and on behalf of Hemyock's parish church at the annual Helpers Service.

The short afternoon service at St Mary's Church was followed by a delicious cream tea

Pictured is Cheyenne Jordan helping serve cream teas at the afternoon church sevice.

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Blackdowns clubs and organisations

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Sampford Arundel WI

"NEVER have a bath with rose-petals in it" was the advice from Janet of J W Blooms.

This is because 90 per cent of flowers sold in this country are foreign, and may well have had their heads dipped in pesticide before being shipped. English - grown flowers are now sold in some local super-markets.

Janet told how she had built her now thriving business up from an interest and love of English wild flowers.

She turned a neglected field into a fertile ground for an amazing variety of flowers, and now, after floristry training, arranges flowers for ceremonies, especially weddings.

The rest of the evening was also happily spent with reviewing summer events - the highlights being the village fete and flower show and a guided walk round Wellington.

The action letters for the two national resolutions were available.

Now looking forward to getting back into the swing of things with the book club, art and craft groups, lunch out, group meeting (poem please), the county annual meeting, scrabble, and the ABBA event.

Next comes arrangements for Christmas!

Wellington Garden Club

DRAGONS, cranes - of the bird variety - turtles, bridges, waterfalls of rocks; not items often found in Somerset gardens, even of those belonging to members of the Wellington Garden Club.

But David Burgess enthralled members of the club at their September meeting with his description of Japanese gardens and their amazing history, which goes back thousands of years.

The contents of the gardens have symbolic and sacred meanings, and include rivers, bridges and lakes in even the smallest of houses.

David told of the different climates throughout Japan, from 'arctic' to sub-tropical, and the soil from the water which grows azaleas and rhodedendrons so well.

David used to make Japanese tea-houses, and he included description of the ceremony where worldly cares can be left behind - bit like at the tea hatch at the club, really, except the tea is delicious at the hatch!

A fascinating presentation.

Earlier, new members were welcomed, and the summer outings and events were reviewed, including a sales stand at the Park's May Day event, a garden visit to Lydeard House and a social garden visit with delicious refreshments and chat while admiring Gill and Geoff Stamp's garden; unfortunately not a turtle in sight.

Next month we look forward to hearing of the 'Trials of a Horticultural Judge' from Roy Halsey, and the competition is for 'autumn colour - flowers or foliage'

Wellington Garden Club warmly welcomes new members.

They meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Lodge Close at 7.30pm.

Contact Richard Fox, Chairman, at 01823 662088, or Gilly Tilden, secretary, 01823 666237, to find out more, or just come along.

Hemyock WI

THE September meeting of Hemyock WI was held in the Forbes Lounge.

As both the President and Secretary were on holiday, the meeting was chaired by Brenda Calcraft with Sue Hollow acting as secretary.

The business was dealt with before the Dunkeswell Handbell Ringers entertained with some excellent renditions of many popular tunes.

The competition for a victoria sandwich was won by Marie Dear, but as there were only three entries, Brenda and Wendy deserve a mention for coming second and third. Annette Hart brought the most popular flower with a beautiful' Prince William' rose.

The meeting on October 4th will be in Forbes Lounge at 7.30pm when Joselyn Benson will talk about 'A Fascinator for all Occasions'.

The competitions will be for a 'Flower' and 'A Hat for a Special Occasion'.

Members were reminded of the Group Meeting at Huntsham on October 20th.

Hemyock Gardener's Association

THE autumn show was held in the parish hall on Saturday, September 10th. The show secretary reported that both entrants and entries were up in numbers from last year.

It was a colourful and financially successful event.

The main prize winners were Kathy Jones, Monica Smith, Sandy Coe, Karen Pinder, John Butterwith, Henry Farrant, Gillian Hawkes and Sandra Featherstone.

In the absence of the Chairman, David Major, Barbara Heaton presented the prizes.

Committee member, Brenda Calcraft thanked Barbara and her assistant Marie Dear for all their hard work and all who had helped in any way to make it a success.

Pictured is Gillian Hawkes (left) receiving a prize from the show secretary Barbara Heaton.

Blackdown Hills Transition Group

COMING into the autumn, I suppose that we would mostly associate the humble apple with Somerset, especially with the wonderful drinks it can make and also eating them too!

However, it is interesting to look back on the origins of apples and how they came to the United Kingdom.

The apple tree originated in Central Asia and it's wild ancestor can still be found there today. Apples were found in Turkey and Kazakhstan and were reputed to have made their way to our country with the Romans.

The Romans cultivated apple orchards throughout the occupied country and after the Norman conquests, new varieties of apple from France were introduced and new varieties cross-pollinated in the grounds of Monasteries.

There are now more than 7,500 apple varieties throughout the world and apple production exceeds 80million tons annually.

Whilst the UK only produces five per cent of this volume, it is home to many interesting apple that are used for cooking, food production and making ciders and other beverages.

The Blackdown Hills Transition Group are helping to run a number of Apple Pressing Days in Buckland St Mary Village Hall car park (Sunday 9th October 1230-1630), Upottery Glebe Park Ex14 9RH (Sunday 16th October 1200-1700) and Stentwood Farm at Dunkeswell (29th & 30th October 1100-1700).

So if you have any apples or windfalls, why not bring them along to one of these venues and turn them into wonderful juice!

It will also be a good opportunity to meet like-minded people who take an interest in looking after their environment, and also reaping the rich benefits of the wonderful Blackdown Hills.

We look forward to meeting you all!

Neil Arnold
Blackdown Hills Transition Group
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Downpours fail to dampen spirits at street fayre

BAD weather meant fundraising efforts at Chardstock Street Fayre were badly affected with fewer visitors and stallholders turning up.

However, for the hardy souls who did brave the elements there was still a wide range of stalls and activities to enjoy and there was much merriment during the course of the day.

The festivities got off to a rousing start with a procession through the village led by the Dorset Youth Marching Band and Chard Goldstar Evolution Majorettes and a pair of local llamas.

Chardstock's very own village crier, Ady Goff, paid a loving tribute to the village and the annual event was officially opened by Jonathan Milford, President of the Street Fayre Team.

The dog show took place in a break between rain showers and was as popular as ever, with entrants being judged by Joyce Fleming of Minster Vets.

One of the fayre organisers, Graham Vyse, said: "Much of the activity planned for the afternoon was curtailed by torrential rain and there was huge disappointment when it was announced that Chardstock's very own Morris Troup, The Dancers and Prancers, would not be able to make their once-yearly appearance, due to a waterlogged pitch.

"But the rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of villagers and visitors for this annual funraising event and this year the main beneficiaries will be The Devon Freewheelers and The British Heart Foundation as well as many other local good causes.

"Chardstock Street Fayre Team would like to thank all those who helped to sponsor the event, volunteered their services to make it a happen or came along to spend their money for the benefit of local good causes.

"Fine weather has been booked for the 2017 event, which always takes place on the first Saturday of September."

■ CUTTING THE RIBBON: Jonathan Milford opens the event

■ ANDY Taylor and Beth Taylor of Devon Freewheelers

■ IN FULL CRY – Ady Goff in action

■ CHARDSTOCK Gardening Club members Hilary Pritchard and Sue Back

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Pub team raise £10,700 for cancer charity with sponsored bike ride

REGULARS at the York Inn in Churchinford have raised more than £10,700 for charity after completing a 58mile cycle ride.

A team of 28 villagers joined landlord Paul Thomas to take part in the London to Brighton Charity bike ride last month to raise funds for Bike4Cancer, a charity that arranges hospice and respite care for both cancer sufferers and their families.

Paul said: "We completed the ride, having left Churchinford at 4am on Sunday morning and returning at about midnight the same day.

"As a result of all our fundraising and sponsorship we have raised a massive £10,752 for Bike4Cancer.

"Following on from this success I am planning on organising another sponsored bike ride from the North coast of Somerset to Dorset (three counties coast to coast.) If anyone is interested or wants further information they can contact me by email at 3countiescoast2coast@gmail.com.!"

Paul added: "I would really like to thank all the locals and their families who have sponsored and supported us."

Paul's next charity bike ride will take place on September, 10th 2017 and he is looking for not only entrants but marshalls, and people to organise food stops.

This time the money will be split between two charities, the Blackdown Community Bus and the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Hospital.

PAUL and Sarah, Landlord and Landlady of the York

ABOVE: The York Inn team and below, the team arriving in Brighton

Blackdown Woodland Ramblings

By John Greenshields

SORRY I missed August and September, we had five weeks of Duke of Edinburgh students here on residential courses.

Eight students stay each week and do various activities with a environmental and conservation theme.

I am always surprised how little knowledge they have when it comes to trees, so I make it my mission not to let them go home without learning the names of at least 10 trees. I also had a great deal of help with the students, from Conrad Barrowclough from the Blackdown Hills AONB natural futures team, thanks Conrad.

The leaves are already starting to fall so autumn is just around the corner, and it's a good time to assess tree health, checking for die back on branches and looking for fruiting bodies.

I was called to assess what seemed a perfectly sound beech the other day for an insurance company as it was very close to a large house and road it was 1.7metres at DBH so pretty big.

At first glance it looked fine and had a good crown, but when I tapped it with a mallet it did not sound right. So after a bit of digging around at its base I found a very small fruiting body (bracket fungus) no bigger than a 50pence piece and with a probe I could tell it was not well.

I condemned the tree and asked the tree surgeons to ring me so I can come back and take a look.

Well I have to say I was astounded, it was completely hollow with just a ring of living tissue left there was no indication from the outside at all.

We forget that our trees are home for thousands of animals, birds and bugs, its been said that a 400-year-old oak will be home to 60 different species. We have such an oak and while the bat group were here one night I got them to see what was around this single oak and there were three different species of bat.

We also forget that single trees in fields are shade from the sun for many animals. On the hottest day this year this same tree had nine roe deer shading most of the day.

I am still funded by the association to come out and do free two hour advice visits to members and at only £15 to be one I think that's great value.

You can contact me on contacts parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk.

Singers' director appears at Proms

A LOCAL Musical Director took part in the Last on of the Proms after winning a TV competition.

Matthew Bale, who is the Musical Director of Hemyock Singers, recently featured on the BBC's *All Together Now: The Great Orchestra Challenge*, a competition looking for amateur orchestras.

Mr Bale is a member of North Devon Symphonia, who reached the final and won.

As part of the prize the orchestra were given the opportunity to play at the annual Proms in the Park, part of Last Night of the Proms.

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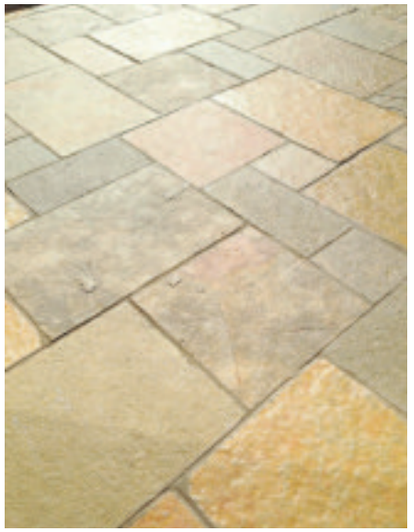

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what's on in and around the Blackdown Hills

Autumn talks at the Museum of Somerset

THE Museum of Somerset's autumn events programme of heritage and history talks has been announced.

The programme opens on October 4th with Dr Hilary Custance Green. *'Writing to a Ghost'* explores the untold stories of the Thailand – Burma railway and of the families waiting at home in Britain.

On October 11th the museum welcomes a leading authority on the Ice Age in Britain and Western Europe, Professor Danielle Schreve of Royal Holloway, University of London.

Professor Shreve, who has made a particular study of the bone caves of the Mendip Hills, will talk about *'The Haunt of the Hippo: The Ice Age in Southern England'*.

To celebrate the bicentenary of the publication of Coleridge's visionary poem *Kubla Khan,* Professor Seamus Perry, Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford (pictured right), will be talking on October 13th. Seamus Perry is a renowned public speaker, widely known for his wit and his insight. *Kubla Khan* was written at Culbone in Somerset, and is one of the most celebrated and mysterious of English poems.

A week later, on October 20th, there will a talk by Time Team geophysics expert John Gater (pictured left). The occasion is this year's Mick Aston Memorial Lecture. It will be given in support of the Victoria County History of Somerset, the great project to research and publish the history of every parish in the county.

Visitor Services Manager Susie Simmons said: "We have an extremely varied programme to look forward to this autumn with some exceptional speakers who are renowned experts in their fields."

For tickets, prices and times visit ticketsource.co.uk/themuseumofsomerset

Packed line up for autumn at Clayhidon

THERE is a great line up of films, live gigs and other entertainment at Clayhidon Parish Hall.

Autumn kicks-off with a Thanksgiving and Harvest Supper at the parish hall from 6.30pm on Friday, October 7th.

The following Friday, October 14th, brings lives music to the hall from the Thunderbridge Bluegrass Band from 7.30pm.

Movie Money Monster (15) is a riveting thriller directed by Jodie Foster, with George Clooney as a TV financial show host whose programme is hijacked by a gunman. Also stars an on-top-form Julia Roberts as show director. It will be shown at the hall on Friday, October 21st from 7.30pm.

Wednesday, November 9th will see live music from Ninebarrow at 7.30pm. They are a multi-award-winning folk duo, who are impressing audiences across the country with their innovative and captivating take on the folk tradition.

Friday, November 18th will see a screening of British period comedy Love and Friendship (U) starring Kate Beckinsale in a mesmerising performance as a scandalous widow. The film will be shown at 7.30pm.

A quiz night will be held on December 3rd from 7.30pm. More details are available online at www.clayhidon.org.uk.

And to welcome the festive season Carols By Candlelight will be held at the hall at 7.30pm on Friday, December 16th. Sing along to old festive favourites with mulled wine, mince pies and handbells.

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OCT 17	5 DAYS	THE AUTUMN COLOURS OF THE LAKE DISTRICT	£295.00
OCT 21	4 DAYS	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS	£195.00
OCT 22	8 DAYS	THE ROMANTIC FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERA	£475.00
OCT 23	5 DAYS	THE AUTUMN COLOURS OF THE NEW FOREST & DORSET	£295.00
OCT 24	5 DAYS	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS & THE LAKE DISTRICT	£179.00
OCT 31	5 DAYS	BLACKPOOL ILLUMINATIONS & THE LAKE DISTRICT	£179.00
OCT 31	5 DAYS	ROLLING BACK THE YEARS, NORTH WALES ENTERTAINMENT BREAK	£215.00
NOV 6	2 DAYS	5* LUXURY IN LONDON	£109.00
NOV 11	4 DAYS	FALMOUTH TURKEY & TINSEL	£189.00
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NOV 11	4 DAYS	ISLE OF WIGHT TURKEY & TINSEL	£189.00
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NOV 12	2 DAYS	REMEMBRANCE WEEKEND IN LONDON	£125.00
NOV 14	4 DAYS	EASTBOURNE TURKEY & TINSEL	£279.00
NOV 18	4 DAYS	TENBY TURKEY & TINSEL	£195.00
NOV 18	4 DAYS	BOURNEMOUTH TURKEY & TINSEL	£189.00
NOV 19	2 DAYS	BLENHEIM PALACE AT CHRISTMAS & GLOUCESTER QUAYS VICTORIAN FAYRE	£ 99.00
NOV 21	5 DAYS	MYSTERY TURKEY & TINSEL	£245.00
NOV 21	3 DAYS	LUDLOW MEDIEVAL CHRISTMAS FAYRE & WORCESTER VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS	£149.00
NOV 25	4 DAYS	CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT CASTLE HOWARD & YULETIDE YORK	£235.00
NOV 25	3 DAYS	PORTSMOUTH'S VICTORIAN FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS	£149.00
NOV 25	4 DAYS	NORTH WALES TURKEY & TINSEL	£195.00
NOV 25	4 DAYS	A TRIO OF CHRISTMAS MARKETS ... AACHEN, LIEGE & VALKENBURG	£259.00
NOV 26	2 DAYS	CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEKEND	£ 85.00
DEC 2	4 DAYS	CHRISTMAS AT TATTON PARK & ARLEY HALL FLORAL EXTRAVAGANZA	£199.00
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DEC 23	5 DAYS	CHRISTMAS IN CANTERBURY	£495.00
DEC 28	6 DAYS	CRUISING THE RIVER RHINE FOR NEW YEAR	£575.00
DEC 29	5 DAYS	SCOTTISH HOGMANAY	£465.00
DEC 30	4 DAYS	NEW YEAR IN SHROPSHIRE	£295.00
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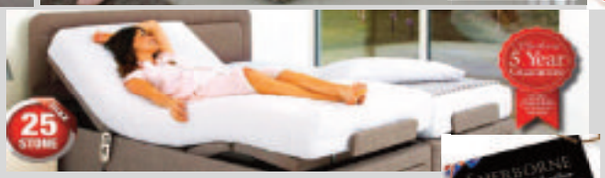

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